

# From Your State Senator **Joseph J. Crisco, Jr.**

## **Amity Middle School—Bethany 7th-Graders Attend Girls and Technology Expo**

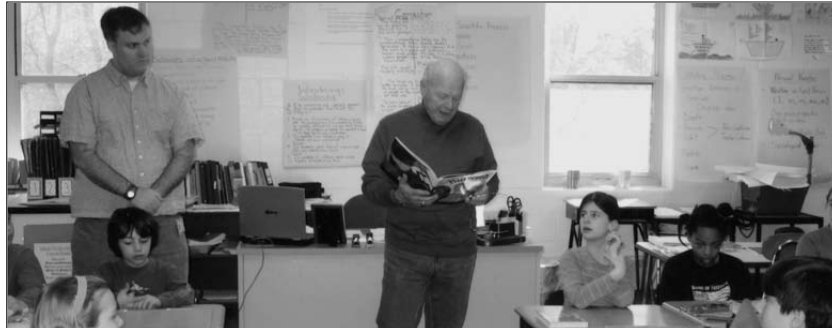
Recently, I welcomed 20 7th-grade young women from Amity Middle School—Bethany to my Annual Girls and Technology Expo at Quinnipiac University in Hamden. This program of hands-on workshops introduces 7th-grade girls to a broad range of careers in which knowledge of technology plays a crucial role.

## **Clean Cars: “Greenhouse Gas Score”**

The increased concentration of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere—including carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides—has the potential to negatively affect our climate. Since our vehicles emit these harmful gases, we passed legislation establishing a labeling program for new cars sold or leased for model years 2009 or later. The label will include a “greenhouse gas score” to help educate consumers on which vehicles are more environmentally sound and which have a less detrimental impact.

## **Campaign Finance Reform and Ethics**

We continued to strengthen our ethics laws in response to unprecedented corruption



**Senator Crisco reads to students at Bethany Community School on Connecticut Loves to Read Day.**

that occurred in our state. Legislation this year prohibits a governor’s spouse from receiving honoraria and bans a governor from lobbying the state for at least one year after leaving office. We also continued to improve our strongest-in-the-nation finance reform legislation by further limiting political action committees (PACs).

## **Access to Imaging Services: MRIs, CAT Scans, etc.**

Imaging services, such as MRIs and CAT and PET scans, are crucial in the diagnosis and proper treatment of certain diseases. However, some insurance companies have set co-payments for these services so high that patients must forgo these tests. As co-

chairman of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, I worked to pass a new law that will set limits on the co-payments that certain patients will pay for these services.

## **Ultrasound Screening for Breast Cancer**

As co-chairman of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, I successfully fought for legislation that helps detect breast cancer at an early stage for women with dense breast tissue or increased risk factors. The bill expands on legislation approved last year by changing the way certain health insurance policies provide coverage for comprehensive ultrasound screening.

## **Budget: Good News for Bethany**

To help control the increase in local property taxes, we increased funding in nearly all categories of town aid, and added an **additional \$17,603 in revenue sharing**. Moreover, Bethany receives additional education funding through Region 5.

	<b>This Year</b>
Education Cost Sharing (ECS)	\$1,586,002
Public School Transportation	\$25,961
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$33,775
Town Aid Roads (TAR)	\$98,948
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$42,448
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (Colleges & Hospitals)	\$25,197
Local Capital Improvement Projects (LoCIP)	\$47,419
Total Statutory Formula Grants	\$1,877,353
<b>Total Increase Over Last Year</b>	<b>\$35,962</b>

## **Special Bethany Funding: \$15,000 state grant**

I worked to secure \$15,000 in special funding which will be used to improve Bethany’s recreation area. Located behind the Town Hall and school annex, this area is used by all residents of the town.

Dear Neighbor,

The 2006 Legislative Session has come to a close. I'm pleased to report that budget negotiations resulted in significant increases in town aid for Bethany, including additional funding for special education.

**Because taxes touch everyone's lives directly, we:**

- increased the state property tax credit from \$400 to \$500 for the 2006 tax year
- eliminated the personal property tax on manufacturing equipment and machinery
- created a new tax credit for businesses that grow jobs so that Connecticut remains competitive in the 21st Century

**And, to help control energy costs for individuals and businesses, as we continue to seek more comprehensive solutions, we:**

- extended the sales tax exemption on insulation, certain water heaters, natural gas and oil furnaces through June 2007.

**Moreover, we:**

- responded to the concerns of our teachers and fully funded the Teachers' Retirement Fund through 2007.

I hope you will take a moment to read the selections in this newsletter. As always, I invite you to share your ideas and opinions with me. You may reach me at 1-800-842-1420, x0189.

Sincerely,  
  
State Senator  
Joseph J. Crisco, Jr.



Your State Senator

**JOSEPH J. CRISCO, JR.**

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